Application Serial No.: 10/749,386

Reply to Office Action mailed April 9, 2007

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS** 

1. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the salt tolerance of a plant in need

thereof, comprising increasing the expression of a polynucleotide encoding a SOS1 protein a

polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,

wherein said <del>SOS1 protein polypeptide</del> has Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> transporter activity, in said plant as

compared to the expression of said polynucleotide in the wild-type of said plant, and wherein

said increasing the expression is by either increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide

as compared to the wild-type plant or by replacing the native promoter of said polynucleotide

with a stronger promoter.

37. – 42 (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide

comprises a sequence that is at least 70% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide

comprises a sequence that is at least 80% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide

comprises a sequence that is at least 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

47. - 50. (Canceled)

- 51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said plaint is Arabidopsis thalania.
- 53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of wheat, corn, peanut cotton, oat, and soybean plant.
- 54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said increasing the expression comprises increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide as compared to the wild-type plant.
- 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said increasing the expression comprises replacing the native promoter of said polynucleotide with a stronger promoter.

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56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant.

- 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said plant is a dicotyledonous plant.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said increasing the expression is in a plant organ.
- 59. (Currently Amended) The method of elaim 36 claim 58, wherein said plant organ is selected from the group consisting of leaves, the stem, and the roots.
- 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said increasing the expression is in the whole plant.
- 61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said increasing the expression is in the seeds of said plant.